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NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE FOR HEPATITIS C VIRUS DISCOVERY

Harvey Alter, Charles Rice from the US and Michael Houghton from the UK won the Prize, the Nobel jury said on Monday

HELPED SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES WORLDWIDE

The three virologists made a decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis. Their discovery of the Hepatitis C virus—a major cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis—made possible blood tests and new drugs that have saved millions of lives, the Nobel jury said. Their discovery also revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis

HOW THE TRIO DISCOVERED THE VIRUS

- Alter studied hepatitis in patients who had received blood transfusions, determining their illness was neither Hepatitis A or B
- Houghton built on Alter's work to isolate the genetic sequence of the new virus. Rice then used genetic engineering to prove it was the new strain—Hepatitis C—that was causing the disease | P14

71 mn

FACE CHRONIC HEPATITIS C INFECTION WORLDWIDE, ACCORDING TO W.H.O.

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Big compensation fight at GST Council, deal put off

10 non-BJP ruled states reject the borrowing options mooted by the Centre; apex panel to meet again on October 12 to resolve the issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

EVEN after eight hours of marathon talks, the GST Council meeting on Monday could not break the stalemate over compensation as 10 Opposition-ruled states rejected the Centre's borrowing options to meet revenue shortfall. The Council will meet again on October 12 to resolve the issue.

However, states will get some immediate relief as the total compensation cess collected so far this year, ₹20,000 crore, will be disbursed by Monday night itself. The pending IGST dues of ₹24,000 crore will also be transferred to states by the middle of next week. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the compensation cess will be extended beyond the original deadline of June 2022 in view of the economic distress due to the pandemic.

In the last GST meeting, states were given two options to meet GST revenue shortfall — a special window arranged by the Finance Ministry to provide ₹97,000 crore at a nominal interest rate or borrow the entire gap in revenue shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore. Nirmala said 21 states have opted for the first option, while 10 states including Kerala, Telangana, and West Bengal, said the Centre should borrow and give the money to states.

In the meeting, Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said the entire revenue shortfall of states needs to be compensated by the Centre. Later, he said in a Facebook post, "The Central government is just a member of the Council. Hence, the Council's decision on the issue should be made through a voting."

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said his state will not borrow money to meet revenue shortfall. If the Centre doesn't release full compensation, Punjab will adopt "all legal options", he warned.

Telangana Finance Minister Harish Rao, too, rejected the Centre's borrowing options.

The Tamil Nadu government reiterated its demand for immediate release of dues in one instalment while agreeing to Option 1. "Our stance has consistently been that the Centre has a moral and legal obligation to pay compensation for the shortfall in GST collections," said Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Minister D Jayakumar.

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath demanded the borrowing limit be increased by 2%.

Odisha had no issue to raise at the GST Council meeting held on Monday, as it had already accepted the first option.

With inputs from our bureaux in New Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Bhubaneswar

P7

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 42nd GST Council meeting via video conferencing in New Delhi on Monday | PTI

KEY DECISIONS

- This year's compensation cess of ₹20K cr to be disbursed to states on Monday night
- Pending IGST of ₹24,000 crore to be transferred to states by the next week
- Compensation cess to be extended beyond the original deadline of June 2022

Centre must release ₹25K cr to state: Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CONSIDERING the Covid-induced financial stress, the Centre should release the cess amount of ₹25,000 crore to the state that has been collected up to September 2020, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told the GST Council on Monday. Taking part in the 42nd Council meeting, Bommai, in charge of GST Karnataka, spoke about the financial challenges faced by the states.

He welcomed the suggestion of the Centre to extend the cess collection beyond 2022 so that the entire compensation entitlement of the states could be given to them, which was the suggestion made by Karnataka earlier.

Bommai said, "Under option one, the earlier proposal had assumed the growth rate of 10% while calculating the loan amount. Karnataka had suggested that the assumed growth rate be reduced in the light of the prevailing situation. The Union government has proposed to cut it to 7%."

P7

POLITICAL DRAMA

AHEAD OF BY-ELECTIONS, CBI RAIDS DK SHIVAKUMAR

The CBI raid on Shivakumar's house is another attempt to derail our bypoll preparations. I strongly condemn it.

Siddaramaiah, Leader of Opposition

Congress leaders who are condemning the CBI raids, are not talking about violations by Shivakumar.

Nalin Kumar Kateel, BJP state president

The BJP has absolute majority in the assembly and bypoll results will not have any impact on the government.

Dr K Sudhakar, Medical Education Minister

BJP denies it's politics of vendetta

The BJP has denied that the CBI raids on Congress state unit president D K Shivakumar and his family were "vendetta politics", and a "politically motivated" move to derail the bypoll preparations. Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said on Monday, "It is not correct to politicise the raids. Some people are trying to gain political mileage by doing this." Income-Tax and Enforcement Directorate officials had earlier conducted raids at Shivakumar's residence, and the CBI probe may be in continuation of investigations by the central agencies.

KPCC president D K Shivakumar addresses supporters in front of his residence in Bengaluru, after the CBI raided 14 of his properties across the country on Monday | NAGARAJA GADENAL

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

IN a surprise move, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday conducted simultaneous raids at 14 locations linked to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar, his brother D K Suresh and excise baron and close associate of former, Sachin Narayan, over the alleged "possession of disproportionate assets (DA) of around ₹75 crore, which are in his name and in the name of his family members," said CBI sources.

"The CBI raids were conducted at nine locations in Karnataka, five in Delhi and one in Mumbai subsequent to the registration of a case against Shivakumar and others under the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA), 1988," said the officer. The Central anti-corruption agency has allegedly seized ₹57 lakh in cash, several incriminating documents including property papers, bank-related information and computer hard disks during the day-long raids," the officer said.

The CBI sleuths arrived at Shivakumar's residence in Sadashivangar early morning just when he was about to hold a preparatory meeting with election coordinators and booth managers for the forthcoming Assembly by-polls in Sira and RR Nagar in Karnataka on November 3, KPCC spokesperson Suraj Urs told *The New Indian Express*.

The timing of the CBI raids against the KPCC president was questioned by Congress leaders, who termed them a political witch-hunt by the BJP. "The CBI had registered a preliminary enquiry in March this year against Shivakumar and others in the DA case. Why did the agency wait for six months to take action? It is obvious that the raids have been timed ahead of the by-polls," said Congress insiders.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Agency raids a rude jolt for Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

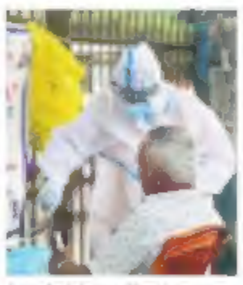
THE CBI raids on KPCC president DK Shivakumar and his brother and party MP DK Suresh, ahead of by-polls to two assembly segments and four Council seats, came as a big jolt for the party and its leaders. Questioning the timing of the raids, Congress leaders termed it a political conspiracy to derail the party's by-poll preparations.

The raids were conducted at a time when Shivakumar and the party leaders were busy finalising candidates for the RR Nagar assembly segment, and working on a strategy to retain the seat represented by the party MLA before he resigned to join the BJP, besides winning Sira. In the past few days, Shivakumar has been holding back-to-back meetings with party leaders and organising protests against the state and Central governments. The party now faces the challenge of keeping up this momentum.

"The CBI raid on Shivakumar's house is another attempt to derail our bypoll preparations. I strongly condemn it," said Opposition leader Siddaramaiah. "BJP has always tried to indulge in vindictive politics and to mislead public attention."

State govt bans strikes by healthcare workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru


A technician collects a sample in Bengaluru on Monday | MEGHANA SASTRY

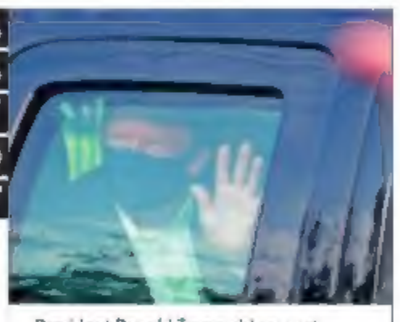
AS the Covid pandemic continues to rage, the Karnataka government on Monday banned protests or any form of disobedience by health workers across the state.

A notification issued by the government stated that disobeying or refusing to work entrusted by a superior officer in connection with Covid duty would attract penal provisions under the Karnataka State Civil Services (Prevention of Strikes) Act, 1966 (Karnataka Act No 30 of 1966).

The circular, signed by Chief Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar, prohibits strikes, non-cooperation, disobeying or refusing work related to health services, non-submission of reports, non-compliance to orders issued by higher authorities by any public servant, health personnel, regular, contractual and outsourced employees of health department, in the interest of public health.

Health workers have been treating patients, putting their own lives at risk. But their certain demands were not met, triggering protests. CONTINUED ON: P3

TRUMP'S RECKLESS DRIVE-BY SETS A BAD PRECEDENT


President Donald Trump drives past supporters gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda on Sunday | AP | PTI

Covid-positive US President Donald Trump did the unthinkable on Sunday, disregarding all disease management and quarantine protocols by briefly stepping out of the Walter Reed Medical Center where he is admitted

He drove by well-wishers, waving to them from behind the glass pane of his sealed car. Inside the car were at least two Secret Service agents wearing protective gear in the front seats, while Trump sat in the back

"This is insanity," tweeted Dr James P Phillips, a physician at Walter Reed. "Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary presidential drive-by has to be quarantined for 14 days," he tweeted

FOR A PATIENT WHOSE OXYGENATION LEVELS DIPPED BELOW SAFE LEVELS TWICE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, WAS ADMINISTERED SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN AND ADMINISTERED A STEROID, ATTEMPTING THEATRICS, TRUMP STYLE, WAS NOTHING SHORT OF MADNESS

But such is his insecurity ahead of the November 3 presidential elections that he is resorting to knee-jerk reactions and hurting his cause in the process. He is now itching to get back to the White House

A WSJ report said his rapid antigen test was positive on Thursday itself but he did not disclose it and went ahead with a Fox interview. Later when his RT-PCR test, too, was positive, he could no longer put a lid on it

UP police see global plot, file 19 FIRs

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AMID continuing outrage over the alleged gang-rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras, the state police on Monday sought to turn the narrative by claiming to have unraveled an international conspiracy to foment caste conflict to defame the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh.

The police registered as many as 19 first information reports (FIRs) — some including sedition charges — and at least six persons, including two in Lucknow, have been arrested in the alleged plot.

Police sources said intelligence agencies indicated the involvement of organisations like Amnesty International, Popular Front of India, Social Democratic Party of India and workers and leaders of many mainstream political parties in the conspiracy. The police also claimed it had evidence of international funding to fuel the anger.

Prashant Kumar, ADG (Law and Order), claimed that a "conspiracy was hatched to push the state into caste turmoil". P10

EXPRESS READ

TCS m-cap surpasses ₹10-lakh-cr mark

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday became the second Indian firm after Reliance Industries to attain a market valuation of more than Rs 10 lakh crore helped by a rally in its share price. The stock jumped over 7 per cent ahead of its board meeting later this week to consider a share buyback proposal.

Nawaz Sharif, others booked for sedition

Lahore: Pakistan's former PM Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam and other top leaders of the Opposition PML-N party were charged with sedition and other serious cases for allegedly conspiring against the army and judiciary, and inciting people against them. PTI

WHO: 10% of people may have been infected

Geneva: The head of emergencies at the World Health Organization said on Monday its 'best estimates' indicate that roughly 1 in 10 people worldwide may have been infected by coronavirus 'more than 20 times the number of confirmed cases'.

CM INTERVENES

Locked out, Army vets get back keys to flats

The flats which were allotted to Army veterans at Kodathi in Bengaluru

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IN a shocking incident, 73 ex-servicemen who were handed over the keys to their flats under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited at Kodathi were left homeless after the Corporation allegedly changed the locks without their knowledge.

When repeated pleas to the Chief Office, other politicians and officials went unanswered, over 350 veterans and their families from across Karnataka staged a dharna on Monday and forced the corporation to hand over the new keys to some of them.

The protest was staged in front of Anand Rao Circle with ex-servicemen from Kolar, Mandya, Tumakuru, Bagalkot, Chitradurga and Belagavi taking part. By evening, the Chief Minister's Office intervened and ordered the corporation to hand over the new set of keys to the owners.

Col (retd) S S Rajan, Convener, Military Veterans, said, "The issue dates back to 2010 when 173 ex-servicemen were allotted two BHK flats for Rs 9,89,872 in Kodathi panchayat. By 2019, all the veterans had paid the amount and the keys were handed over to 73 of them and a former BSF constable by March 2020."

Nagaraja, a veteran, said, "On June 3, those who were allotted flats went there to perform a joint Ganesh Puja." P5

TODAY'S IPL MATCH

MUMBAI VS RAJASTHAN

Rohit Sharma & Co are the inform side with their middle-order firing on all cylinders. Facing them in Abu Dhabi this evening is RR, who are are showing some cracks after a confident start.

ODDS: MUMBAI 4/6 | RAJASTHAN 25/19

LIVE: STAR SPORTS1/HOTSTAR @ 7.30PM